

Message Text

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ACTION STR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1670

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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FOR MTN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, RO

SUBJ: MTN: ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

REF: (A) STATE 019287 (B) BUCHAREST 516

1. AFTER HEARING US VIEWS (REFTEL A) ON OPENING OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE (TNC) MEETING FEBRUARY 11, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIALS TODAY OFFERED FOLLOWING GENERAL COMMENTS ON ROMANIA'S APPROACH TO MTN. GOR AGREES THAT WORK ON MAJOR MTN ISSUES SHOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY EVEN THOUGH US UNABLE TO TABLE TARIFF OFFERS UNTIL FALL, AND THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MUST BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF 1975, WHEN MANDATES TO NEGOTIATE EXPIRE, IF DELEGATIONS ARE TO BE ABLE TO ASK FOR RENEWED AUTHORITY. MFA OFFICIAL EVEN ASKED WHETHER SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONCE 1976 ELECTION CAMPAIGN WARMS UP IN US.

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2. ROMANIA WILL JOIN OTHER LDC'S IN SEEKING AN EQUAL ROLE

FOR LDC'S IN MULTILATERAL TRADE AND AN EARNEST EFFORT TO GRANT LDC'S THE FAVORABLE TREATMENT CALLED FOR IN TYU TOKYO DECLARATION. GOR WILL TAKE THIS APPROACH TO ALL MTN ISSUES, AND DOES NOT BELIEVE LDC ISSUES CAN BE ISOLATED OR FUNNELED OFF INTO A WORKING GROUP ON LDC PROBLEMS. FURTHER, GOR DOES NOT BELIEVE LDC'S SHOULD WAIT TO SEE WHAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CAN ACCOMPLISH BETWEEN THEMSELVES, SINCE IT BELIEVES THIS PASSIVE APPROACH DID NOT SERVE LDC'S WELL DURING THE KENNEDY ROUND. FOR ITS OWN PART, GOR INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY THROUGHOUT MTN.

3. ROMANIA EXPECTS TO BE TREATED AS AN LDC, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT BASED UPON ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OR ITS ECONOMIC SYSTEM. MFA OFFICIALS SAID THEY WILL INSIST THAT ROMANIA'S DIFFERING MECHANISMS LEAD TO THE SAME EFFECTS ON TRADE AND INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AS THOSE OF ANY OTHER LDC; THEY FEEL THAT ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY DISTINCTIONS ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS ACTUALLY REFLECT POLITICAL, RATHER THAN ECONOMIC, OBJECTIONS. (SEE REFTTEL B FOR CURRENT GOR CONCERN ABOUT THE ROLE OF ITS TARIFF UNZLOYTLOML

4. GOR BELIEVES THAT ITS CONSULTATIONS WITH US DELEGATION SINCE THE OPENING OF MTN IN SEPT 73 HAVE BEEN USEFUL, AND HOPES THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE. DESPITE ROMANIA'S STATUS AS AN LDC, GOR SEES MANY AREAS IN WHICH ITS VIEWS ARE CLOSE TO THOSE OF THE US. IN PARTICULAR, GOR IS COMMITTED TO THE GENERAL LIBERALIZATION AND THE GREATER PARTICIPATION OF ALL COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. GOR CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL MARKETS IS A MAJOR ISSUE; DESPITE SHORTAGES IN SOME AREAS, RECENT BEEF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY THE EC SHOW THAT MAJOR PROBLEMS OF MARKETING ARE NOT OVER, AND SHOULD NOT BE OVERSHADOWED BY PROBLEMS OF SECURING AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY. FINALLY, GOR IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EXPANSION OF FREE TRADE AREAS AND PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH SERVE TO DENY MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT TO MANY COUNTRIES.

5. ROMANIA EXPECTS TO HAVE A DELEGATION OF 3 TO 4 FOR MTN. A YOUNG, GATT-TRAINED MFA OFFICIAL (DEAK) WILL BE JOINING PETRESCU AND MODORAN IN GENEVA FOR UPCOMING TNC MEETING. BALTAZAR, WHO EXPECTS TO BE ASSIGNED OTHER DUTIES, WILL NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTEND.

6. COMMENT: THESE VIEWS REITERATE LONG-STANDING GOR POSITIONS, AND WE ARE NOT SURPRISED AT GOR INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR MTN, OR THEIR CONTINUED INTEREST IN CONSULTING WITH US MTN DELEGATION.

7. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT (REFTTEL A, PARA 1) AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

BARNES

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